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 (71) Applicant: **SONY CORPORATION**
Tokyo 141 (JP)
 (72) Inventors:
 • **Yoshida, Tadao**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)

• **Kanota, Keiji**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)
 • **Yano, Hajime**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)
 • **Oishi, Hiroaki**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)
 • **Yokota, Junichi**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)
 • **Fujino, Toyomi**
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141 (JP)
 (74) Representative: **Turner, James Arthur et al**
D. Young & Co.,
21 New Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1DA (GB)

(54) **Broadcasting system and reception apparatus**

(57) A broadcasting system 1 provides a digital content to be broadcast with an attribute vector A thereof. A filter 12 is assigned with a selection vector S indicating user's taste. The filter 12 performs a standardized inner product operation between the selection vector S and the attribute vector A for selecting and recording broadcast programs.

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$$

$$S = (s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n)$$

$$P = \frac{A \cdot S}{|A| |S|}$$

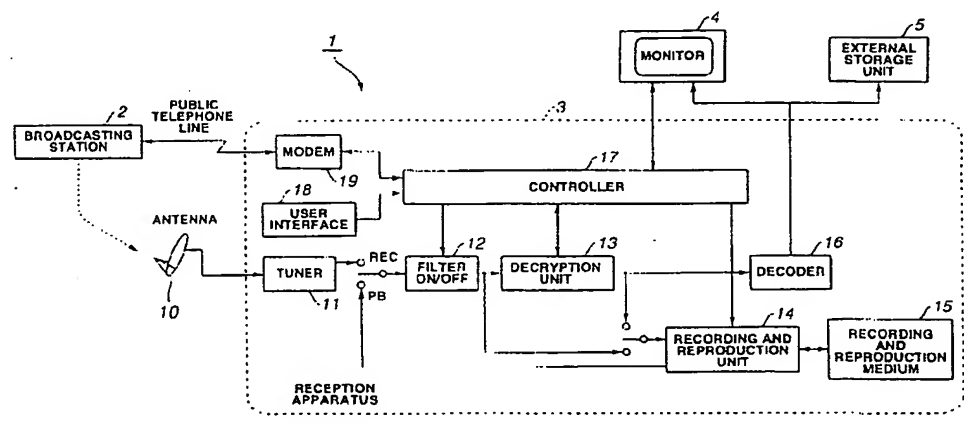


FIG.1

EP 1 107 595 A1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a broadcasting system, for example for broadcasting digital contents such as video and music, and also to a reception apparatus thereof.

[0002] In recent years, digital television broadcasting is developing for broadcasting various programs such as videos, music, games, computer data, and the like to many users by means of cable broadcasting, satellite broadcasting, ground waves, and the like.

[0003] Using this digital television broadcasting, a user need not purchase or rent recording media such as optical disks, magnetic tapes, and the like which store programs such as movies, music, games, computer data, and the like. It is possible to eliminate inconvenience of acquiring such programs.

[0004] In this digital broadcasting system, however, a broadcasting station unilaterally selects time slots and contents of programs to be broadcast. Users cannot select time slots and contents of programs they wish at their discretion.

[0005] The user needs to enjoy a desired program at a convenient time slot using a time-shift feature, a library feature, and the like provided by a videotape recorder. Even if using these videotape recorder features, the user at least needs to reserve desired programs. Operations for the reservation are too complicated and inconvenient for users to choose from all the broadcast programs.

[0006] The present invention has been made in consideration of the foregoing. Embodiments of the present invention can provide a broadcasting system and a reception apparatus with improved convenience for enjoying digital contents according to user preferences.

[0007] A broadcasting system according to the present invention comprises: a broadcasting station for broadcasting a digital content together with attribute information indicating an attribute thereof; and a plurality of reception apparatuses having reception means for receiving said digital content and attribute information broadcast from a broadcasting station, a recording medium for recording received digital contents and attribute information, output means for outputting received digital contents, and selection means for selecting digital contents by comparing selection information indicating users's taste with attribute information assigned to digital contents, wherein said attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A comprising attribute items as elements each indicative of attribute intensities for a digital content; said selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S comprising user's taste items as elements each indicative of taste intensities; item types and orders for said attribute information and said selection information correspond to those for an attribute information's vector A and a selection information's vector S; and said reception apparatus's selection means performs an inner product operation between an attribute information's vector A attached to a broadcast digital content and a selection information's vector S and determines whether to select that digital content based on an inner product operation result.

[0008] Such a broadcasting system provides digital contents to be broadcast with the corresponding attribute information. The system selects digital contents matching the users's taste from the broadcast digital contents based on this attribute information and selection information indicating the users's taste. The broadcasting system records the selected digital contents on a recording medium, then allows users to replay the recorded digital contents or choose from these according to users's taste.

[0009] The above-mentioned attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A. This vector comprises elements each of which represents intensity of an attribute for each item when digital content attributes are categorized into items. The above-mentioned selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S. This vector comprises elements each of which represents intensity of a taste for each item when users's tastes are categorized into items. The attribute information and the selection information contain item types and orders so defined that these item types and orders correspond to each other for the attribute information vector A and the selection information vector S. Based on the attribute information and the selection information expressed with these vectors, the above-mentioned selection means for the reception apparatus performs an inner product operation between the attribute information's vector A and the selection information's vector S. Based on an inner product operation result, the system determines whether to select the digital contents.

[0010] A reception apparatus according to the present invention comprises: reception means for receiving said digital content and attribute information broadcast from a broadcasting station; recording medium for recording received digital content and attribute information; output means for outputting received digital content; and selection means for selecting a digital content by comparing selection information indicating user's taste with attribute information attached to the digital content, wherein said attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A comprising attribute items as elements each indicative of attribute intensities for a digital content; said selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S comprising user's taste items as elements each indicative of taste intensities; item types and orders for said attribute information and said selection information correspond to those for an attribute information's vector A and a selection information's vector S; and said selection means performs an inner product operation between an attribute information's vector A attached to a broadcast digital content and a selection information's vector S and determines whether to select that digital content based on an inner product operation result.

[0011] The reception apparatus receives digital contents provided with the attribute information. Based on this attribute information and selection information indicating users's taste, the system selects digital contents matching the users's taste from the broadcast digital contents. The reception apparatus allows users to record selected digital contents on storage media and replay them or to replay recorded digital contents according to the users's taste.

[0012] The above-mentioned attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A. This vector comprises elements each of which represents intensity of an attribute for each item when digital content attributes are categorized into items. The above-mentioned selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S. This vector comprises elements each of which represents intensity of a taste for each item when users's tastes are categorized into items. The attribute information and the selection information contain item types and orders so defined that these item types and orders correspond to each other for the attribute information vector A and the selection information vector S. Based on the attribute information and the selection information expressed with these vectors, the selection means for the reception apparatus performs an inner product operation between the attribute information's vector A and the selection information's vector S. Based on an inner product operation result, the system determines whether to select the digital contents.

[0013] The broadcasting system and the reception apparatus according to the present invention provide digital contents to be broadcast with the corresponding attribute information. The system selects digital contents matching the users's taste from the broadcast digital contents based on this attribute information and selection information indicating the users's taste. The broadcasting system and the reception apparatus record the selected digital contents on a recording medium, then allows users to replay the recorded digital contents or choose from these according to users's taste.

[0014] The broadcasting system and the reception apparatus according to the present invention automatically select digital contents based on the selection information indicating users's tastes. Convenience is improved by eliminating complicated operations for selecting desired digital contents from many ones. It is possible to record only digital contents needed for the time-shift feature, effectively using recording media.

[0015] The broadcasting system and the reception apparatus according to the present invention express the attribute information and the selection information with vectors. The selection means performs an inner product operation between the attribute information's vector A and the selection information's vector S. Based on an inner product operation result, the system determines whether to select the digital contents. The broadcasting system and the reception apparatus according to the present invention can easily select digital contents matching users's tastes and precisely reflect users's tastes.

[0016] The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, throughout which like parts are referred to by like references, and in which:

[0017] FIG. 1 shows a configuration of a digital broadcasting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] The following describes the embodiment of the present invention with reference to FIG. 1.

[0019] A digital broadcasting system 1 according to the embodiment of the present invention comprises a broadcasting station 2, a reception apparatus 3, a monitor 4 connected to the reception apparatus 3, and an external storage unit 5.

[0020] The reception apparatus 3 comprises an antenna 10, a tuner 11, a filter 12, a decryption unit 13, a recording and reproduction unit 14, a recording and reproduction medium 15, a decoder 16, a controller 17, a user interface unit 18, and a modem 19.

[0021] The broadcasting station 2 broadcasts digital data using, say, satellite broadcasting, cable networks, ground wave broadcasting, and the like. Digital data to be broadcast includes various programs such as movies, music, television programs, game data, computer data, commercial films, and the like, and an electronic program guide (EPG). An EPG lists title information about programs to be broadcast and broadcasting channels. Each program is provided with attribute information which indicates an attribute of that program.

[0022] The broadcasting station 2 broadcasts digital data by compressing it using, say, the MPEG-2 method. The broadcasting station 2 encrypts digital data and attribute information to be broadcast by using a specified encryption key.

[0023] The attribute information describes program attributes comprising various values and information including program genres such as news and sports, performers, keywords, trends, producers, popularities, charges, and the like needed for selecting information and determining tastes. The broadcasting station 2 describes values and information specific to each program for each attribute in the attribute information.

[0024] The reception apparatus 3 receives digital data broadcast from the broadcasting station 2 by using, say, the antenna 10. The tuner 11 demodulates the received signal and applies an error correction and the like to that signal. The demodulated digital data is sent to the filter 12.

[0025] The filter 12 is supplied with digital data comprising a program and attribute information from the tuner 11 or the recording and reproduction unit 14. The filter 12 is provided with the selection information indicating the users's taste. The filter 12 compares this selection information with the attribute information included in each program. Then,

the filter 12 filters the supplied programs and outputs programs which match the users's taste. The controller turns on or off the filter 12 to determine whether to perform filtering. When no filtering is performed, all input programs are output.

[0026] The decryption unit 13 is supplied with digital data from the filter 12 and decrypts the digital data using a specified encryption key. Only a registered user at the broadcasting station 2 can own this encryption key. The digital data decrypted in the decryption unit 13 is sent to the recording and reproduction unit 14 or the decoder 16.

[0027] The recording and reproduction unit 14 records and reproduces digital data on the recording and reproduction medium 15. Basically, encrypted digital data is supplied and is recorded as encrypted data on the recording and reproduction medium 15. On the recording and reproduction medium 15, the recording and reproduction unit 14 may record digital data for which charging or the like is complete or for which a cipher is decrypted in freeware and the like.

[0028] Under control of the controller 17, the recording and reproduction unit 14 reads digital data from the recording and reproduction medium 15 and transfers it to the filter 12.

[0029] The decoder 16 is supplied with digital data which is decrypted by the decryption unit 13. The decoder 16 demodulates a program compressed with the MPEG-2 method to generate baseband-based video data, audio data, computer data, and the like. According to the user's control, the decoder 16 outputs the demodulated program to the monitor 4 or the external storage unit 5.

[0030] The controller 17 controls the components such as the tuner 11, the filter 12, the decryption unit 13, the recording and reproduction unit 14, the decoder 16, the user interface unit 18, and the modem 19 in an integrated manner.

[0031] The user interface unit 18 is an input device such as a keyboard and a mouse and a control unit thereof. For example, the user interface unit 18 is used for selecting GUI components displayed on the monitor 4 or configuring settings via the monitor 4.

[0032] The modem 19 connects the reception apparatus 3 with the broadcasting station 2 or a specified management station via a public telephone line. The modem 19 uploads data transmitted from the reception apparatus 3 to the broadcasting station 2 or the specified management station.

[0033] The reception apparatus 3 receives programs broadcast from the broadcasting station 2. The reception apparatus 3 receives the broadcast programs at the antenna 10 and uses the tuner 11 to apply processing such as demodulation and error correction to the programs. For replaying a broadcast program in realtime, the filter 12 selects that program. The decryption unit 13 decrypts the program. The decrypted program is sent to the decoder 16, is expanded in the decoder 16, and then is displayed on, say, the monitor 4. For replaying broadcast digital contents using a time-shift feature, the received program is transmitted to the recording and reproduction unit 14 from the filter 12, and then is recorded in the recording and reproduction medium 15. At a user-specified time, the program is reproduced from the recording and reproduction medium 15. The filter 12 selects the program. That program is then decrypted in the decryption unit 13. The decrypted program is sent to the decoder 16, is expanded in the decoder 16, and then is displayed on, say, the monitor 4.

[0034] In this reception apparatus 3, the filter 12 selects received programs. Only a program which matches the users's taste is stored in the recording and reproduction medium 15. During a realtime or time-shift operation, only a program which matches the users's taste is output via the decoder 16.

[0035] Specifically, the selection information is assigned to the filter 12 of the reception apparatus 3. The filter 12 compares the attribute information attached to a program with the internally defined selection information. The filter 12 selects only the attribute information matching the selection information and selects a program assigned with the selected attribute information. The controller 17 specifies whether the filter 12 performs a selection operation. When turned on, the filter filters programs. When turned off, the filter does not filter programs.

[0036] For example, there may be the case where the reception apparatus 3 is used for replaying a received program at another time slot, namely replaying a time-shifted program. When the filter 12 is turned on, only a program selected by the filter 12 is stored in the recording and reproduction medium 15. The reception apparatus 3 need not store all broadcast programs, effectively using the capacity of the recording and reproduction medium 15. The reception apparatus 3 stores programs which match the users's taste even if a user does not reserve these programs. This eliminates a complicated operation of selecting desired programs from all broadcast programs.

[0037] When replaying received programs in a time-shift manner, for example, the reception apparatus 3 turns off the filter 12 to store all received programs on the recording and reproduction medium 15. During replay, the reception apparatus 3 turns on the filter 12 to output only programs selected by the filter 12 via the decoder 16.

[0038] The digital contents to be broadcast contain an EPG. The reception apparatus 3 displays the EPG to allow users to easily select programs for a realtime replay. The EPG shows title information as a list of choices which are understandable to users as program contents. The EPG comprises, say text data, font data, image data, graphic data, if needed, motion picture data, and the like.

[0039] When the controller 17 displays the EPG, the reception apparatus 3 modifies the EPG's program titles in accordance with the users's taste. When there is a program which matches the selection information and the attribute information defined for the filter 12, the controller displays the title information indicating that program in a state differing

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) \quad (1)$$

[0052] In this equation, a_1 through a_n are elements of the attribute vector A and indicate intensities of program attributes. The order of attribute items and the number of these items (n) are predetermined in the attribute vector A.

[0053] A given program, say, a movie, is provided with the following attribute vector A which contains the following attribute items (a_1 through a_n). The order and the number of these items are predetermined. Each of these items is assigned a specific value. The thus prescribed attribute vector A is attached to the corresponding program for broadcasting. The order of attribute items is common to the digital broadcasting system 1. When another program is broadcast, that order is unchanged. Only values allocated to items change.

$$A = (5, 2, 1, -3, -4, \dots, 0, 0, 8)$$

Attribute items

[0054]

Movie → 8

Drama → 0

Sports → 0

Artistic → -4

Musical → -3

Dramatic → 1

Horror → 2

Amusing → 5

[0055] Specifically, the n-dimensional selection vector A is expressed as equation (2) below.

$$S = (s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n) \quad (2)$$

[0056] In this equation, s_1 through s_n are elements of the selection vector S and indicate intensities of attribute attributes indicating the user's taste. The order of attribute items and the number of these items (n) in the selection vector S are same as those for elements in the attribute vector. This selection vector S is defined for the filter 12 in the reception apparatus 3.

[0057] The selection vector S indicating the user's taste is generated, say, by averaging a plurality of programs reproduced by the user. For example, it is assumed that the user selected 50 replayed programs. In this case, the selection vector S can be generated for each selected program by averaging attribute vectors A1 through A50.

$$A_1 = (5, 2, 1, -3, -4, \dots, 0, 0, 8)$$

$$A_2 = (3, 3, 5, 1, 0, \dots, 0, 0, 8)$$

$$A_3 = (1, 2, 3, -1, 3, \dots, 0, 8, 0)$$

$$A_{50} = (2, 3, 4, -1, 3, \dots, 8, 0, 0)$$

$$S = \frac{1}{50} \sum_{k=1}^{50} A_k = (2.1, 3.2, -1.1, 0.5, -4, \dots, 0.1, 0.3, 0.2)$$

[0058] When the number of programs to be selected is assumed to be M, the selection vector S is found in equation (3) as follows.

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^M A_k \quad \dots (3)$$

[0059] It is assumed that the k-th program selected by the user will have the attribute vector A as follows.

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

[0060] The following equation may be used to find the selection vector S by restricting the number of programs used for finding this selection vector out of a plurality of reproduced programs.

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=L-M+1}^M A_k$$

[0061] In this equation, M denotes the number of windows for finding the selection vector S; and L is a start point for selecting programs for finding the selection vector S. It is assumed that the k-th program selected by the user will have the attribute vector A as follows.

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

[0062] Not only reproduced programs, but also user-reserved programs may be used for a plurality of attribute vectors A in order to find this selection vector S. During realtime reproduction, a program may be reproduced for a short time and may be immediately changed to another program. Such a program is assumed to be little interested or inadvertently selected and is not used for finding the selection vector S. Namely, the selection vector S is generated by using the attribute vector A for a program which is reproduced for a specified time or longer. Further, the selection vector S may be generated by changing weights for a reserved program and a realtime reproduced program. For example, the selection vector S may be generated as follows by using a constant P for the reserved program and a constant R for the realtime reproduced program.

$$S = PS_P + RS_R$$

[0063] In this equation, S_u is a selection vector found from the attribute vectors A for a plurality of reserved programs; and S_v is a selection vector found from the attribute vectors A for a plurality of realtime reproduced programs.

[0064] Note that generating the selection vector S is not limited to this method. A user can select any generation method.

[0065] The following describes how to select broadcast programs.

[0066] It is assumed that a broadcast program contains the attribute vector A in equation (4) as follows.

$$A = (3, 1.1, 4, -1, 2.5, \dots, 0, 0, 8) \quad (4)$$

[0067] At this time, the following operation in equation (5) is performed for determining whether to record the program in the recording and reproduction medium 15.

$$P = \frac{A \cdot S}{|A| |S|} = \frac{3 \cdot 2.3 + 1.1 \cdot 3.2 + 4 \cdot (-1.1) + \dots + 8 \cdot 0.2}{\sqrt{3^2 + 1.1^2 + 4^2 + \dots + 8^2} \sqrt{2.3^2 + 3.2^2 + (-1.1)^2 + \dots + 0.2^2}} \quad (5)$$

[0068] A decision is made according to the found selection value P .

[0069] The meaning of the selection value P is described below.

[0070] When an angle θ is assumed to be formed between the attribute vector A and the selection vector S in a vector space, the equation (6) shows an internal product between the attribute vector A and the selection vector S .

$$A \cdot S = |A| |S| \cos \theta \quad (6)$$

where $A \cdot S$ is an internal product between A and S .

[0071] Accordingly, $\cos \theta$ is found in equation (7) as follows.

$$\therefore \cos \theta = \frac{A \cdot S}{|A| |S|} \quad (7)$$

[0072] Namely, the selection value P indicates $\cos \theta$.

[0073] When the attribute vector A and the selection vector S indicate the same direction, the result is $P > 0$ (case 1). When the attribute vector A crosses the selection vector S , the result is $P = 0$ (case 2). When the attribute vector A and the selection vector S are directed opposite to each other, the result is $P < 0$ (case 3).

[0074] It is possible to make the following assumptions about the relationship between a program assigned with the attribute vector A and a user having a taste pattern indicated by the selection vector S .

[0075] In case 1, the user is assumed to be interested in the program or have the similar taste. This tendency is assumed to be stronger as the value approaches the maximum value of 1.

[0076] In case 2, the user is assumed to be uninterested in the program.

[0077] In case 3, the user is assumed not to like the program positively or is assumed to dislike it. This tendency is assumed to be stronger as the value approaches the minimum value of -1.

[0078] The reception apparatus 3 sets the filter 12 so that the program is recorded under the condition of selection value $P > 0.3$, for example. Consequently, it is possible to record much interesting programs without recording less interesting, uninterested, or dislike programs.

[0079] As mentioned above, the digital broadcasting system 1 uses the attribute information and the selection information expressed in vectors to select programs to be recorded, or reproduced according to values resulting from an inner product operation. Thus, it is possible to easily select digital contents matching users's taste and reflect the users's taste correctly.

[0080] The above-mentioned example records programs in the recording and reproduction medium 15 when the selection value P exceeds a specified value. Selection of programs is not limited to this method. It may be preferable to overwrite or delete a program with the minimum selection value P found by attribute vectors A and selection vectors S of the recorded programs when the recording and reproduction medium 15 becomes full to leave no free area. Further, it may be preferable to compare the smallest selection value P from programs recorded in the recording and reproduction medium 15 with the selection value P for a newly received program and determine whether to record this new program.

[0081] When a plurality of users uses the reception apparatus 3, the filter 12 is assigned with the selection vector for each user.

[0082] The attribute vector A and the selection vector S comprise n-dimensional elements. It may be preferable to extract necessary elements from n elements and generate an m-dimensional ($m < n$) vector for selecting programs.

[0083] In so far as the embodiments of the invention described above are implemented, at least in part, using software-controlled data processing apparatus, it will be appreciated that a computer program providing such software control and a storage medium by which such a computer program is stored are envisaged as aspects of the present invention.

Claims

1. A broadcasting system comprising:

a broadcasting station for broadcasting a digital content together with attribute information indicating an attribute thereof; and
a plurality of reception apparatuses having reception means for receiving said digital content and attribute information broadcast from a broadcasting station, a recording medium for recording received digital contents and attribute information, output means for outputting received digital contents, and selection means for selecting digital contents by comparing selection information indicating users's taste with attribute information assigned to digital contents, wherein
said attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A comprising attribute items as elements each indicative of attribute intensities for a digital content;
said selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S comprising user's taste items as elements each indicative of taste intensities; item types and orders for said attribute information and said selection information correspond to those for an attribute information's vector A and a selection information's vector S;
and
said reception apparatus's selection means performs an inner product operation between an attribute information's vector A attached to a broadcast digital content and a selection information's vector S and determines whether to select that digital content based on an inner product operation result.

2. A broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein said reception apparatus's selection means finds a selection value P based on the following equation and selects a digital content based on the size of this selection value P:

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$$

$$S = (s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n)$$

$$P = \frac{A \cdot S}{|A| |S|}$$

where

$$A \cdot S = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k s_k$$

$$|A| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n a_k^2}$$

$$|S| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n S_k^2}$$

in which neither A nor S is 0 vector.

3. A broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein said selection information's vector S is found from a vector A of attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents selected by a user.
4. A broadcasting system according to claim 3, wherein said selection information's vector S is found according to the following equation:

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^M A_k$$

where M is assumed to be the number of digital contents selected by a user; and an attribute vector for the K-th digital content selected by a user is assumed to be:

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

5. A broadcasting system according to claim 3, wherein said selection information's vector S is found according to the following equation:

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=L-M+1}^L A_k$$

where M is assumed to be the number of windows for finding a vector S; L is assumed to be a start point for selecting a plurality of digital contents for finding the vector S; and an attribute vector for the K-th digital content selected by a user is assumed to be:

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

6. A broadcasting system according to claim 3, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reproduced by a user for a specified time or more.
7. A broadcasting system according to claim 3, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reserved by a user.
8. A broadcasting system according to claim 3, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reproduced by a user for a specified time or more, averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reserved by a user, assigning a weight to each average, and combining these weights.
9. A broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein said reception apparatus's selection means selects a digital content based on a vector S of selection information corresponding to a plurality of users.

10. A reception apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving said digital content and attribute information broadcast from a broadcasting station;
 5 recording medium for recording received digital content and attribute information;
 output means for outputting received digital content; and
 selection means for selecting a digital content by comparing selection information indicating user's taste with attribute information attached to the digital content, wherein
 10 said attribute information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector A comprising attribute items as elements each indicative of attribute intensities for a digital content;
 said selection information is expressed with an n-dimensional vector S comprising user's taste items as elements each indicative of taste intensities;
 item types and orders for said attribute information and said selection information correspond to those for an attribute information's vector A and a selection information's vector S; and
 15 said selection means performs an inner product operation between an attribute information's vector A attached to a broadcast digital content and a selection information's vector S and determines whether to select that digital content based on an inner product operation result.

11. A reception apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said selection means finds a selection value P based on the following equation and selects a digital content based on the size of this selection value P:

$$A = (a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$$

$$S = (s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_n)$$

$$P = \frac{A \cdot S}{|A| |S|}$$

where

$$A \cdot S = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k S_k$$

$$|A| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n a_k^2}$$

$$|S| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n S_k^2}$$

in which neither A nor S is 0 vector.

12. A reception apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said selection information's vector S is found from a vector A of attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents selected by a user.

13. A reception apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said selection information's vector S is found according to

the following equation:

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^M A_k$$

where M is assumed to be the number of digital contents selected by a user; and an attribute vector for the K-th digital content selected by a user is assumed to be:

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

14. A reception apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said selection information's vector S is found according to the following equation:

$$S = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=L-M+1}^L A_k$$

where M is assumed to be the number of windows for finding a vector S; L is assumed to be a start point for selecting a plurality of digital contents for finding the vector S; and an attribute vector for the K-th digital content selected by a user is assumed to be:

$$A_k = (a_{1k}, a_{2k}, a_{3k}, \dots, a_{nk})$$

15. A reception apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reproduced by a user for a specified time or more.

16. A reception apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reserved by a user.

17. A reception apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said selection information's vector S is found by averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reproduced by a user for a specified time or more, averaging vectors A for attribute information attached to a plurality of digital contents reserved by a user, assigning a weight to each average, and combining these weights.

18. A reception apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said selection means selects a digital content based on a vector S of selection information corresponding to a plurality of users.

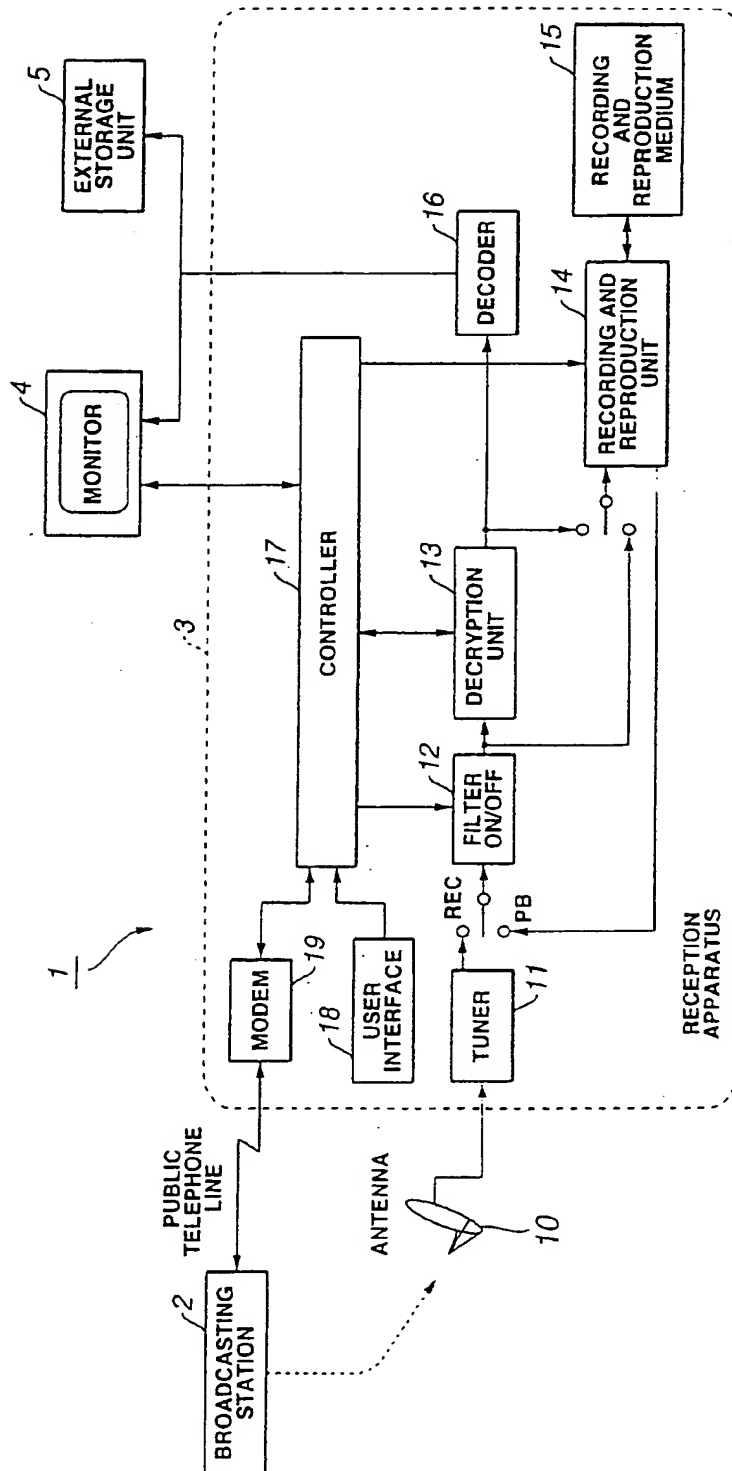


FIG.1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 0532

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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